lehl comes and I keep him for lunch. I read him the *Recit de Michel* [16] and am helped by his remarks.

After lunch useless wait for Chapon. Tea at the Lerolles'; appalling insignificance of the conversation.

I barely grieve over these various wastes of time; I don't feel good for anything and shall not resume life until some distance from this spot.

(My will has become so weak that the least breath bends it or stands in its way; this morning a charming letter from Papini depicting Vannicola as poor and ill, and already I was setting sail for Florence.)

Saturday, 24 February

Yesterday after dinner I went to Drouin's; then to Ruyters's, without finding him (stayed talking to Mme Ruyters for a quarter of an hour); then to Elie Allegrefs. Long conversation on the Chinese revolution, which Elie Allegret considers as "a great step forward on the part of humanity/*

He informs me that Frangois de Witt-Guizot took me as whipping-boy in his lecture at *Foi et* Vie.[17] Coming from that direction, any attack strengthens me.

Cuverville, Wednesday

Beautiful weather at last. I let myself be won over by the serenity of this beautiful light, and rest in the certainty of my forthcoming departure.

Copernicus: The wonderful revolution effected by Christianity consists in having said: the kingdom of God is within you. Happy paganism saw no enemy that was not outside man.

The Augean stables, the hydras, the swamps to be cleaned up are *within us.* It is within us that Hercules must labor. Christianity ~ the inner operation.

Radiant morning of the world; man's powers undivided.

It is altogether that Ajax, suddenly, turns against himself; he no longer finds anything whatever in him to defend itself.

Theseus adventuring, risking himself *amidst* the labyrinth, assured

by the secret thread of an inner fidelity . . . etc.

Written in the train, Thursday

My whole day yesterday was spent in copying the subscriptions and the complimentary lists of the *N.R.F.,* of which I had taken the collection of cards with me.

[16] *Michel's Tale.* No work by Andr6 Gide with such a title has been published*

[17] *Faith and Life* was a highly serious Protestant group of liberal tendency, which also published a periodical of the same name.